(b) if so, the progress made so far in this direction;

(c) the number of foreign tourist came in the country during year 2007-08 and the facilities provided to the foreign tourists at tourist places; and

(d) when the Ministry has received the demand for declaring Dongargarh of Chhattisgarh as tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. Ministry of Tourism is in regular touch with the State Governments and various land owning agencies like Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation etc. for creating land banks for hotels, allocating land on joint venture/revenue sharing basis, adopting single window clearance, increasing FAR/FSI. Ministry of Tourism offers capital subsidy for budget hotels of one, two and three star category in the country.

(c) Foreign tourist arrivals in the year 2007 was 5 million.

(d) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 316.97 lakh for destination development of Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh and has released an amount of Rs. 253.58 lakh *vide* sanction No. 5-PSW(75)/2006 dated 25th July, 2007.

Bed and Break-fast Scheme

3090. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Incredible India Bed and Break-fast Scheme has been successful in the country after its launch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to give incentives to Bed and Break-fast units;

(d) if so, the details of the proposed incentives;

(e) the extent to which the scheme will address the accommodation shortage in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) the total number of units likely to come up in the next two financial years in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) The Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Scheme has been launched all over the country. The Government of NCT of Delhi has decided that (i) domestic water and power tariff would be levied on these premises; (ii) no luxury tax would be applicable to such establishments and (iii) property tax would be levied as on tenanted premises on pro-rata basis. Ministry of Tourism has written to all State Governments/Union Territories including the State of Uttar Pradesh to consider granting similar incentives to Bed and Breakfast establishments. Since the Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Scheme is a voluntary scheme, the total number of units likely to come up in the next two financial years cannot be assessed.